1: Rattray, Robert Sutherland. The Tribes of the Ashanti Hinterland. Volume 2. Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1932.

Pp. xi, 293-604.

Yale: Nkd82 932r v.2.

Omitted from Files: Pp. i-ii, iv, viii-xi, 293-338, 398-604.

[This source is the result of a two-year linguistic and ethnographic survey of the northern Gold Coast Colony (modern Ghana), with particular stress on the Nankanse, the largest tribal group in the area. As a result, the other tribes treated in this source, including the Tallensi and their close relatives, the Kusase and the Namnam, are somewhat summarily described and compared with the Nankanse as the "type culture" in the area. Stressed in these accounts of the Tallensi, Namnam and Kusase is ceremonial, with particular reference to the Ten'dan', the local priest, and to death, with its resultant distribution of property. Other aspects, particularly material culture, are dealt with in only a summary fashion. The author lived for more than 20 years in the Gold Coast Colony, first as a District Commissioner, and later as first head of the Anthropological Department in the Gold Coast Government. He was awarded the Rivers Medal in 1933. --Analyst]

Field date: ca. 1920 Evaluation: Ethnologist, Government Official-5
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary Processed in 1957

2: Fortes, Meyer. The Dynamics of Clanship Among the Tallensi: Being the First Part of an Analysis of the Social Structure of a Trans-Volta Tribe. London: Oxford University Press for the International African Institute, 1945.

Pp. xx, 270; 16 plates; 31 diagrams in the text (including one overlay); 3 maps.

Yale: Nkd82 945f.

[This source is devoted to a structural analysis of the clanship and lineage relationships among the Tallensi. It deals with the constitution and interrelations of the corporate groupings found in Tallensi society. He develops the idea that the tendency towards equilibrium is marked in every sector of Tallensi society and in the society as a whole, this tendency being a result of the dominance of the lineage principle in the social structure. He spends some time relating the economy and religion to the lineage system within the structure of the society. The interpenetrations of kinship with these aspects of the structure are left for a second volume. Material culture is touched upon only incidentally. Fortes received his doctorate in psychology from the University of London in 1930, studying subsequently under Radcliffe-Brown and Malinowski. He is currently William Wyse Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge. --Analyst]

Field date: 1934-1937; 1943 Evaluation: Ethnologist - 5
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary Processed in 1957

3: Fortes, Meyer. The Web of Kinship Among the Tallensi: The Second Part of an Analysis of the Social Structure of a Trans-Volta Tribe. London: Oxford University Press for the International African Institute, 1949.

Pp. xiv, 358; 16 plates; 7 text figures; unnumbered diagrams; 1 map in text; index

Yale: Nkd82 949f.

[This source is the second volume of a description and functional analysis of the social structure of the Tallensi, a large group living in the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast Colony (present-day Ghana). The emphasis here is upon the ramifications of kinship in a patrilineal society and its intermeshing with the lineage principle. Attention is paid to the importance of the mother and of matrilineal kin in this overtly patrilineal society, and the spiritual, rather than legal, bonds developing among them. Also stressed are the tensions which arise from the opposition of kinship and the lineage principle, and the reduction of these tensions. Material culture is touched upon only as it is relevant to the problem under discussion. Fortes received his Doctor of Philosophy degree in psychology from the University of London in 1930, and subsequently studied under Bronislaw Malinowski and A. R. Radcliffe-Brown. While in the field he was influenced by the work of Raymond Firth. Fortes is currently William Wyse Professor

3: Fortes, Meyer.

of Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge. --Analyst]

Field date: 1934-1937, 1945
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1957

4: Fortes, Meyer and Sonia L. Fortes. Food in the Domestic Economy of the Tallensi. Africa, Vol. 9, pp. 237-276. London: Oxford University Press, 1936.

Yale: Bk2.10 v.9.

[This article discusses principally the growing, preparation and eating of food among the Tallensi, and its relation to the domestic economy. The annual agricultural and economic cycles are outlined. Some recipes are given in an Appendix, pp. 274-276. --Analyst]

Field date: 1934-1936
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Ethnologists - 5
Processed in 1957

5: Fortes, Meyer. Social and Psychological Aspects of Education in Taleland. Africa, Supplement to Vol. 11, No. 4. London: Oxford University Press for the International Institute of African Languages and Cultures, 1938.

Pp. 64; 4 plates.

Yale: Bk2 10 v. 11.

[This source gives a summary description of the ways in which the norms of Tallensi culture are inculcated in the Tale child, and a brief portrayal of the fundamental learning processes involved. Also included are statements on attitudes toward education, and the social sphere of the child, and a synopsis of the stages of the educational development of the child. Fortes was educated at Capetown and London where he received his degree in psychology. He is currently William Wyse Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge. --Analyst]

Field date: 1934-1937
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Ethnologist - 5
Processed in 1957

6: Fortes, Meyer. Communal Fishing and Fishing Magic in the Northern Territories of the Gold Coast. Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, Vol. 67, pp. 131-142. London, 1937.

Yale: Nk10 +R81 v.67.

[This source examines the social structure of communal fishing among the Tallensi and the extent of the ensuing relations beyond the fishing itself. Attention is paid to fishing methods, ownership of the fish pools, division of the catch, and propitiatory magic and ritual. The author is currently William Wyse Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge. --Analyst]

Field date: 1934-1935
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Ethnologist - 5
Processed in 1957

7: Lynn, C. W. Agriculture in North Mamprusi. Gold Coast Department of Agriculture, Bulletin, No. 34. Accra: Issued by the Director of Agriculture, Gold Coast, 1937.

Pp. vi, 93; numerous tables; 1 map

University of California, Berkeley: S 338 G6A2 no. 24-36.

[This excellent source is a synthesis of information on the agricultural practices of the peoples of the North Mamprusi district, which includes the Tallensi, Namnam and Kusasi, as well as several other tribes. They are treated by Lynn as a single group since he believed that the agricultural methods of the area are the same, especially when contrasted to those of contiguous areas. The goal of the monograph was to locate the causes of food shortage in the territory and to suggest means of ameliorating them. This entailed a thorough analysis of native agricultural methods. The results are summarized in tables in the four appendices. Data on the farms of many of Fortes' informants (see 2: Fortes and 3: Fortes, this file) may be found in these tables. Also included is a section on experimental agricultural work undertaken to discover what crops were best suited to the area. At the time of the investigation, Lynn was Agricultural Superintendent for the Gold Coast Department of Agriculture. -- Analyst]

Field date: 1932-1936 Evaluation: Government Official - 5

Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary Processed in 1957

8: Fortes, Meyer. Ritual Festivals and Social Cohesion in the Hinterland of the Gold Coast. American Anthropologist, New Series, Vol. 38, pp. 590-604. Menasha: American Anthropological Association, 1936.

Yale: Nk10 Am37 v. 38

[This source contains a brief summary of the non-material culture of the Tallensi which serves as a background for the main part of the article, a description of the harvest festivals of the two main groups of the Tallensi. Also briefly noted is the Golib festival of the Talis whose purpose is to ensure a successful sowing and harvesting of early millet and to call down the blessing of fertility in general. Fortes envisages these festivals essentially as being integrative mechanisms which restore the forces of social cohesion between the two opposing groups in Tallensi society, the Talis and the Namoos. Fortes is now William Wyse Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge. --Analyst]

Field date: 1934-1935
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Ethnologist - 5
Processed in 1957

9: Cardinall, A. W. The Division of the Year among the Talansi of the Gold Coast. Man, Vol. 24, article 47, pp. 61-63. London: The Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, 1924.

Yale: Nk10 ♭ M31 v. 24-25

[This source contains a brief description of the Tallensi calendar, the divisions of which depend primarily on the fall of rain, which is not completely regular. These divisions therefore do not correspond to regular months or moons, although there are twelve of them.- -Analyst]

Field date: ca. 1920
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Government Official - 5
Processed in 1957

10: Fortes, Meyer. Names among the Tallensi of the Gold Coast. Afrikanistische Studien, Deutsche Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin, Institut für Orientforschung, Veröffentlichung Nr. 26, pp. 337-349. Berlin: Akademie-Verlag, 1955.

Yale: Fd12 ;B44 26

[This short article gives a description of names and name-giving among the Tallensi. Each person has a public and a private name, the latter not being secret. The private name refers generally to an ancestor who is the guardian spirit of the owner of the name. The public name can refer to almost any circumstance of interest to the name-giver. The article closes with a brief discussion of names taken at the investiture of chiefs and ten'daanas. Fortes is William Wyse Professor of Social Anthropology at the University of Cambridge. --Analyst]

Field date: 1934-1937
Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Social Anthropologist - 5
Processed in 1957